

Authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of \$390.00 plus any additional fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/CDS-59/AJM, in the name of Johnson & Johnson. A response is now due April 25, 1997, and therefore, this Amendment is being timely submitted.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

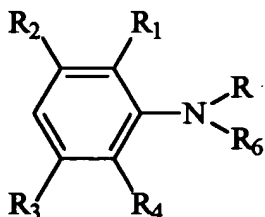
Please cancel claims 1-8 and 12 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 9-11 and 13-17 as follows:

9. (amended) A dry multilayer analytical element [of claim 1] for the determination of acetaminophen in an aqueous fluid, comprising a support having thereon, in order from said support and in fluid contact:

a (a) a [one or more] layer[s] having therein (i) an arylacylamidase enzyme; (ii) a ferricyanide capable of oxidatively coupling paraaminophenol to a color-forming coupling agent [coupler] to form a color compound; and (iii) a water-soluble, color-forming coupling agent [as defined in claim 1; and], at least one layer comprising gelatin and said water-soluble, color-forming coupling agent having the general formula:

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wherein R is a water-solubilizing group selected from (1) - $(CH_2)_nX$, where n is 1 to 5, X is either (I) $-SO_3M$ where M is hydrogen, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal or an ammonium (NH_4^+) cation, or (II) $(-OCH_2CH_2)_yOH$ where y is 2 to 5; and (2) - $N(R_7)_3^+Z^-$ where each R_7 is independently selected from alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and Z is an acid anion;

R₁ and R₆ are taken together to represent an ethylene, trimethylene, or tetramethylene group which forms a partially saturated ring; and

R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

(b) a porous spreading layer; and

(c) a buffer which maintains the pH of the element in a range of between about 6.5 to 8.5.

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10. (amended) The element of claim [3] ~~9~~ wherein the ferricyanide is a ferricyanide salt of an alkali metal.

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11. (amended) The element of claim [3] ~~9~~ wherein the coupling agent is 1-(3-sulfopropyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline.

4 ~~13.~~ (amended) The element of claim [3] ~~8~~ further containing maleimide.

925 ~~14.~~ (amended) [A] The dry multilayer analytical element of claim [1] ~~9~~ for the determination of acetaminophen in an aqueous fluid comprising a support having thereon, in order from said support

(a) a first and second reagent layer wherein[:] the first reagent layer [having] contains therein 1-(3-sulfopropyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline[;], and the second reagent layer [having] contains therein [ascorbic acid oxidase or] a ferricyanide salt and arylacylamidase; and

(b) a porous spreading layer.

~~15.~~ The element of claim ~~14~~ further containing maleimide.

~~16.~~ The element of claim ~~15~~ wherein the maleimide is in the spreading layer.

8 ~~17.~~ (amended) A method for determining acetaminophen in an aqueous liquid comprising the steps of:

93 (a) contacting a sample of [the] aqueous liquid with the analytical element of claim [1, 2, 3,] ~~18~~ [or 14]; [and]

(b) determining the amount of color compound formed; and

(c) [(b)] correlating the amount of color compo[o]und formed to the concentration of acetaminophen in the fluid.